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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Power stance raised, lowered

President Trump halts funding to WHO pending a review

BY JILL COLVIN
AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he's open to some states "reopening" before federal social distancing guidelines expire at the end of month, as he appeared to back off his claim of absolute authority to de-

cide when the time was right to act. Hours after suggesting that the bipartisan concerns of governors about his assertion of power would amount to an insurrection, Trump reversed course — in substance, if not in rhetoric — saying he would leave it to governors to determine the right time and manner to reopen activity in their

states. Trump said he would be speaking with governors, probably on Thursday, to discuss his plans. "The governors are responsible," Trump said Tuesday. "They have to take charge." Still, he insisted, "The governors will be very, very respectful of the presidency."

Democratic and Republican governors had sounded the alarm after Trump asserted that he and he alone would determine when and how to reopen the economy, despite clear constitutional limitations on federal powers. Trump said Tuesday he would be "authorizing each individual governor of each individual state to imple-

ment a reopening — and a very powerful reopening — plan of their state at a time and in a matter as most appropriate." Trump added he would support moves by states that haven't been hit hard by the outbreak to ease restrictions even before his own guidelines expire April 30. It's unclear if any states are actively considering re-

See **POWER, 8A**



STEFANI REYNOLDS/SIPA USA
President Donald Trump speaks at a coronavirus briefing Tuesday.



CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL
Jean Bocard, 97, of Coral Springs, has underlying medical conditions but beat the coronavirus.

'SHE'S A MIRACLE'

97-year-old with diabetes and heart disease survives coronavirus

BY LISA J. HURIASH
AND MARIO ARIZA

Jean Bocard, a 97-year-old grandmother, remembers feeling very sleepy and tired. Her caretaker called 911 when she fell on the floor. It wasn't long before the doctors gave her the news: She

tested positive for the new coronavirus. The disease can pose a greater threat to older patients with underlying health conditions, so her diagnosis was more frightful. But after a week-long stay at the hospital, the Coral Springs woman has overcome the odds to

survive, surprising even her doctor. She recently returned home. "She's very special. She's a tough lady," said Dr. Mike Perl, of Margate. "I wouldn't have bet she'd come out. But the guy upstairs didn't want her yet. She's a miracle."

In addition to her age,

Bocard has several underlying health issues. Bocard has only one kidney after her bout with kidney cancer in 2005. She uses a wheelchair because of knee problems. She has ailments that put her in the at-risk category,

See **MIRACLE, 9A**

2 dead, 5 sick at Pompano Beach senior facility

Information on
scope of outbreak
still hard to gather

BY MARIO ARIZA

Two residents are dead and five others are infected with the new coronavirus at a Pompano Beach senior living facility. The deaths and infections come as part of the growing toll the virus is taking on senior centers across the state and in Broward County. More than 1,100 residents or staff have been documented to be infected statewide, 104 of those in Broward, according to data from the Florida Department of Health. Over 3,600 seniors

have died in nursing homes across the country during the outbreak so far, according to the Associated Press. Yet even as infections and deaths mount, information about the scope of the outbreak is hard to gather. Gov. Ron DeSantis said on Monday he'd already sent teams to 94 long-term care facilities across the state to help contain outbreaks, and he intended to send the Florida National Guard to conduct testing in senior homes. His administration has continued to withhold the names of nursing homes with confirmed cases of coronavirus among residents and staff.

See **SENIOR, 9A**



AMY BETH BENNETT/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL
There have been reports of two coronavirus deaths and five people confirmed positive at the Court at Palm-Aire.

Thousands of jobless Floridians miss cut to get early benefits

BY DAVID LYONS

They were the first among 300,000 Floridians to apply for unemployment benefits as coronavirus triggered the first wave of layoffs. These waiters, bartenders, hotel maids and retail workers who were the first to seek help may be

denied the benefits of the legions who came after them. Whether Gov. Ron DeSantis and his re-employment agency will come to their aid remains to be seen. At issue is the traditional rule that requires applicants for unemployment to wait one week before they

can receive their first unemployment check. On April 1, as coronavirus ripped through South Florida, DeSantis waived the waiting week for those who apply for benefits between March 29 and May 8 so that "eligible Floridians may re-

See **JOBLESS, 9A**

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

**Panel to explore
path to reopening**
Trump said he is enlisting group of advisers to shape plans for economy. **3A**

**Storm cleanup is
muddled by virus**
Disaster response reflects how the pandemic has changed relief efforts. **4A**

MORE COVERAGE

- INSIDE:** Disney workers may get fast pass to benefits. **9A**
- OPINION:** Virus at care homes shrouded in secrecy. **10A**
- OPINION:** Policies need to confront virus in jails. **10A**
- OPINION:** Working parents need flexible options. **11A**
- LOCAL:** Mayors worried about needy, food scarcity. **1B**
- LOCAL:** Group urges halting deportations to Haiti. **4B**
- MONEY:** Carnival cancels cruises through June 27. **6B**
- MONEY:** SNAP approved for use in online shopping. **6B**

Court denies Epstein victim's appeal over rights violation

BY CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG — A federal appeals court on Tuesday denied an effort by one of deceased wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein's alleged underage sexual abuse victims to revive a lawsuit claiming Florida

federal prosecutors failed to consult victims when reaching a secret plea deal with Epstein over a decade ago. A three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that Courtney Wild's appeal of a Florida judge's ruling had to be rejected because no fed-

eral charges were filed in Florida against Epstein at the time. He was later charged federally in New York and died of an apparent suicide in jail on August 10, 2019, at age 66. The judges expressed sympathy for alleged victims such as Wild but determined the law required that

her appeal be rejected. "Despite our sympathy for Ms. Wild and others like her, who suffered unspeakable horror at Epstein's hands, only to be left in the dark—and, so it seems, affirmatively misled—by government lawyers, we find ourselves constrained to deny her petition," U.S. Cir-

cuit Judge Kevin Newsome wrote in the 2-1 opinion. "It's not a result we like, but it's the result we think the law requires," Newsome added. The Associated Press does not name sexual abuse victims without their permission. Wild has given numerous interviews and dis-

cussed her experiences publicly at length with Epstein. In an emailed statement, Wild expressed dismay at the decision. "This is impossible to understand — the government intentionally misled

See **EPSTEIN, 6A**

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